

The District School Board of Indian River County met on February 12, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. The Board Discussion Session was held in the Joe N. Idlette, Jr. Teacher Education Center located in the School District Office at the J.A. Thompson Administrative Center located at 6500 – 57th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32967. District School Board Members attending were: Chairman Laura Zorc, Vice Chairman Tiffany M. Justice, and Board Members: Teri Barenborg, Jacqueline Rosario, and Dr. Mara Schiff. Dr. Mark J. Rendell, Superintendent of Schools; and Suzanne D’Agresta, School Board Attorney, were also present.

Board Discussion Session Minutes

I. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Zorc at 1:00 p.m.

II. Presentation

Chairman Zorc started with the time frame of the meeting. Taking a break at 2:30 p.m., limiting everyone’s time to 20 minutes. There was a discussion on how to proceed with the process. Each Board Member shared their thoughts. The Board came to a consensus of 17 minutes per item. Mrs. D’Agresta would be utilizing the timer and at 15 minutes, she will provide a two-minute warning to wrap up.

III. ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY BOARD MEMBERS

Items held from the 11/20/2018 Organization Meeting

Mrs. Zorc brought these items up to discuss and finalize.

a) SHAC Committee (School Health Advisory Committee)

Chairman Zorc shared that since staff that attends can bring back recommendations, we will allow it to continue this way. Mrs. Zorc did ask that everyone keep track of the agenda that is shared with them.

b) Treasure Coast Council of Local Government Committee

Chairman Zorc stated that she has sat on this committee for the last two years. Mrs. Justice was willing to speak with the representative from the County Commission and, if there are things related to schools, she would obtain information to share with the Board. Delay of dues being paid was requested and will be discussed at a later time.

- c) Oversight MPO Committee – Citizen Representative (Required) Application is posted on the website and was sent to all Board Members.

Chairman Zorc explained the position needs to be filled due to it being a voting position. She spoke with Ms. Speak, previous Citizen Representative, and she provided a referral. Mrs. Zorc has reached out to this person and they are supposed to be providing their application.

- d) Legislative Liaison

Chairman Zorc explained she held the position for the last two years and asked that she be the point person for this. There was a brief discussion on this. Dr. Schiff volunteered to be a back-up for this position. It was also discussed that all Board Members are advocates for the District.

1. Teri Barenborg

- a) Board Agenda – To add two agenda items: IRCEA Report and CWA Report

Chairman Zorc recognized Mrs. Barenborg. Mrs. Barenborg shared some different agenda ideas. Such as a spot on the agenda for the attorney, along with the IRCEA and CWA to provide reports. She also commented on how some districts even have a spot for Student Government. The Board Members all felt the reports from the Union Representatives were a great idea along with the Student Government. It was discussed about a time limit on the reports. It was noted that Committee Reports were part of the Board Discussion in the past. It was asked to be presented as an Action Item on an agenda.

- b) STEM Initiatives Report – I would like staff to give us an update on what STEM initiatives we have in place and what is planned for in the future.

Chairman Zorc recognized Mrs. Barenborg. As a STEM Advocate, she has wanted to share information with her fellow, Board Members. Mrs. Barenborg asked Dr. Rendell to speak to this and if staff is available to speak at this time. Dr. Rendell asked Mrs. Teske come to speak with regards to this. Mrs. Teske provided the Board Members with a brief overview of the history of STEM and the current status. It was asked for this to come back as a workshop setting.

2. Jaqueline Rosario

- a) Review our Strategic Plan with a look at our current numbers/data. What are our measurable objective goals? Our Superintendent's end year evaluation should reflect our Strategic Plan. ~~Our District Level Administrative Staff should also have evaluations that reflect our strategic plan. (We will need copies of our Strategic Plan, along with updated data and any measurable to evaluate effectiveness.~~ Dr. Rendell's Employment Agreement Terms.

Chairman Zorc recognized Mrs. Rosario. Mrs. Rosario shared her discussion item. She reviewed the items that were attached as back up and the history of the changes. She also shared timeline information. Mrs. Rosario said her intention is to have the evaluation tool and Strategic Plan match up for measuring his goals. Mrs. Zorc suggested listening to the Workshop from 8/28/2018 approved on 9/11/2018. It was suggested that the Board come back to this, if there is time.

- b) Teacher Evaluations & Performances

Chairman Zorc recognized Mrs. Rosario. Mrs. Rosario discussed the Highly Effective or Effective Teachers. She reviewed how the teachers are measured. She feels there is a disconnect and asked Dr. Rendell to speak to this. Dr. Rendell shared information with the Board Members. It was also brought up that it may be something that needs to be added to the Legislative Platform due to some of the solution having to come from Tallahassee. Mrs. Rosario wanted to bring this forward for awareness.

3. Mara Schiff, Ph.D.

- a) Reviewing Superintendent's Contract, Job Description, and Evaluation Mechanisms. 1) Financial Terms and Agreements; 2) Assessment Criteria and Timeframe; and 3) An Annual District "State of the Union"

Chairman Zorc recognized Dr. Schiff. Dr. Schiff asked Mrs. D'Agresta to explain parts of Dr. Rendell's Employment Agreement. One being the length of the agreement. The other was options the Board has. Dr. Schiff has also suggested reinstating a State of the Union, as done in the past. It was discussed how the goals would be reached. Dr. Rendell was asked to present this at a workshop. Dr. Rendell also said the State of the District was done previously in July, three years ago. The last two years were Strategic Report presentations at the end of the school year.

- b) School Board Policies, Procedures, and Job Descriptions – Getting very clear and aligned on the roles, responsibilities, and limits of the Board.

Chairman Zorc recognized Dr. Schiff. Dr. Schiff asked to flip her two items. She requested to discuss Item C first.

- c) Reviewing Legal Counsel Contract: Role, Internal vs External Counsel Benefits/Costs.

Chairman Zorc agreed to change the two items. Dr. Schiff brought up the prior presentations from the Audit Committee and information provided at previous meetings. Dr. Schiff wanted to bring this up since the past Board tabled this for the new Board, and she wanted to start the conversation. Dr. Rendell shared that Mr. Carver was ready to start the RFQ process and he would have to be given the direction of the Board. Mrs. Zorc also brought up that in 2012, the other legal counsel was also addressed. Mrs. Zorc said there are three areas to look at: Compare In-House Counsel cost, list of attorney's, and how many hours the attorney represents us. Dr. Schiff is asking for an analysis to be done on all legal counsel for the District. It was asked as to who would be handling the analysis. Dr. Rendell spoke about how Brevard handled this exact same situation.

4. Tiffany Justice

- a) Board Protocols

Chairman Zorc recognized Mrs. Justice. Mrs. Justice shared the information provided in the back-up and asked to have a broader discussion on this. Each of the Board Members participated with input. It was also discussed that all department inquiries should be going through the Superintendent per Board Policy. Mrs. Justice asked to review and if this can be brought up at another meeting to be able to come to a consensus on operating protocols. Items that were brought up were Roberts Rules, meetings with the Superintendent prior to meetings, and guidelines, and come back to go through point by point to create their own model.

b) School Start Times

Chairman Zorc recognized Mrs. Justice and shared that she only had three minutes left. Mrs. Justice said that she would like to speak about School Start Time and said that she wanted to share that the most pressing matter was the Legislative Platform. She said that they need to demand more from the State with regards to adequate funding for many items. Mrs. Zorc said she will lay out a priority list.

5. Laura Zorc

a) Legislative Platform

Chairman Zorc spoke of working on reoccurring funds for School Safety and Mental Health Services. She asked Dr. Rendell to speak to this. Dr. Rendell gave a summary of the allocations. Dr. Schiff said that she will be providing the Board Members with documentation regarding Safety and Security. Conversation continued about priorities to be discussed with the County Commission and with our Representatives. Mrs. Zorc is going to obtain the meeting that they should attend. Mrs. Barenborg also suggested each of them contact their District Commissioner to have further discussion prior to the meeting.

b) Board Communication

During the Discussion Session, Chairman Zorc called for a ten-minute break at 2:35 p.m. She called the meeting back to order at 2:45 p.m.

IV. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

V. ITEMS PLACED ON AGENDA BY SUPERINTENDENT – Dr. Rendell

None

VI. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Zorc

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.